NEWS ANALYSIS NO. 1-1048 JULY 5, 1976
CHRIS KERN

DECLARATION OF INTERDEPENDENCE

ANNCR: SOME OBSERVATIONS NOW FROM CHRIS KERN ABOUT THE INTERNATIONAL CHARACTER OF AMERICA'S BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION.

VOICE: JUST ABOUT EVERYBODY HAS A RIGHT TO TAKE PRIDE IN THE AMERICAN BICENTENNIAL BECAUSE THE POPULATION OF THIS COUNTRY IS COMPOSED OF JUST ABOUT EVERYBODY. THERE'S HARDLY ANYBODY IN THE WORLD WHO DOESN'T HAVE A RELATIVE, FRIEND OR NEIGHBOR FROM HIS VILLAGE, CITY OR COUNTRY WHO DIDN'T EMIGRATE TO THE UNITED STATES AT ONE TIME OR ANOTHER.

THE GREAT INFLUX OF PEOPLE WAS JUST BEGINNING WHEN THOSE MIDDLE CLASS REVOLUTIONARIES ADOPTED THEIR DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE IN PHILADELPHIA TWO HUNDRED YEARS AGO, BUT JOHN ADAMS, THOMAS JEFFERSON AND BENJAMIN FRANKLIN WERE NOT UNMINDFUL OF THE OUTSIDE WORLD. THAT, AFTER ALL, WAS THE INTENDED AUDIENCE FOR THE DECLARATION.

JEFFERSON'S WORDS HAVE BECOME PART OF OUR COMMON CONSCIOUSNESS. THE EVENTS OF LATE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY AMERICA -- LIKE THE SHOTS AT LEXINGTON AND CONCORD -- HAVE BEEN HEARD AND ACTED ON AROUND THE WORLD. AN AMERICAN HISTORIAN POINTED OUT RECENTLY THAT THIS COUNTRY'S REVOLUTION IS " ONE OF A GREAT CHAIN OF REVOLUTIONARY EVENTS" THAT BEGAN WITH THE ENGLISH CIVIL WAR AND THE GLORIOUS REVOLUTION AND INCLUDES THE REVOLUTIONS OF THE FRENCH, RUSSIANS AND CHINESE. " WE ARE NOW ONE REVOLUTIONARY WORLD, " HE CONCLUDED, " OR TO PUT THE MATTER IN A FAMILIAR MAXIM: WE ARE ALL IN THE SAME BOAT."

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN MADE THE SAME POINT TWO HUNDRED YEARS AGO WHEN HE WARNED HIS FELLOW REBELS THAT NOW THAT THEY HAD SIGNED THEIR DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE THEY HAD BETTER HANG TOGETHER, OR THEY WOULD CERTAINLY HANG SEPARATELY.

THE THOUGHT IS VALID TODAY. NOT FOR THIRTEEN FORMER ENGLISH COLONIES CLINGING DESPERATELY TO AN ATLANTIC COAST, BUT FOR MORE THAN ONE HUNDRED FIFTY COUNTRIES IN THE POST-COLONIAL ERA SCATTERED ALL ACROSS THE GLOBE.

THE SELF-EVIDENT TRUTH OF 1976 IS THAT THE TIME HAS COME TO DECLARE OUR INTERDEPENDENCE. THE INDUSTRIAL COUNTRIES WON'T BE ABLE TO SURVIVE WITHOUT THE NATURAL RESOURCES OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, WHO IN TURN WON'T BE ABLE TO DEVELOP WITHOUT CAPITAL AND TECHNOLOGY FROM THE INDUSTRIAL WORLD. IT WILL TAKE DECADES FOR THAT PROCESS TO BECOME SELF-SUSTAINING, AND IN THE MEANTIME WE WILL HAVE TO PUT OUR INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS BACK TO WORK ON SOLVING COMMON PROBLEMS INSTEAD OF DEBATING IDEOLOGICAL PROPAGANDA POINTS. WE HAD ALL BETTER HANG TOGETHER OR IT'S CERTAIN THAT WE WILL ALL HANG SEPARATELY.

WASH END